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Docket No.: NEB-154

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Evans EXAMINER: W. Moore

APPLICATION NO.: 09/249,543 GROUP: 1652

FILED: February 19, 1999

FOR: Intein-Mediated Protein Ligation Of Expressed Proteins

The Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE B

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2002, please amend the above-identified Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3 and add new claims 31-61 as follows:

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1. A method for ligating a first expressed protein with a second protein, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a first target protein having a C-terminal thioester, wherein the target protein is expressed in a host cell;

(b) generating a second target protein having a specified N-terminal; and

(c) combining the first target protein with the second target protein in a mixture;

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(d) ligating the first and the second target protein in the mixture.

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02 FC:202 168.00 CH